

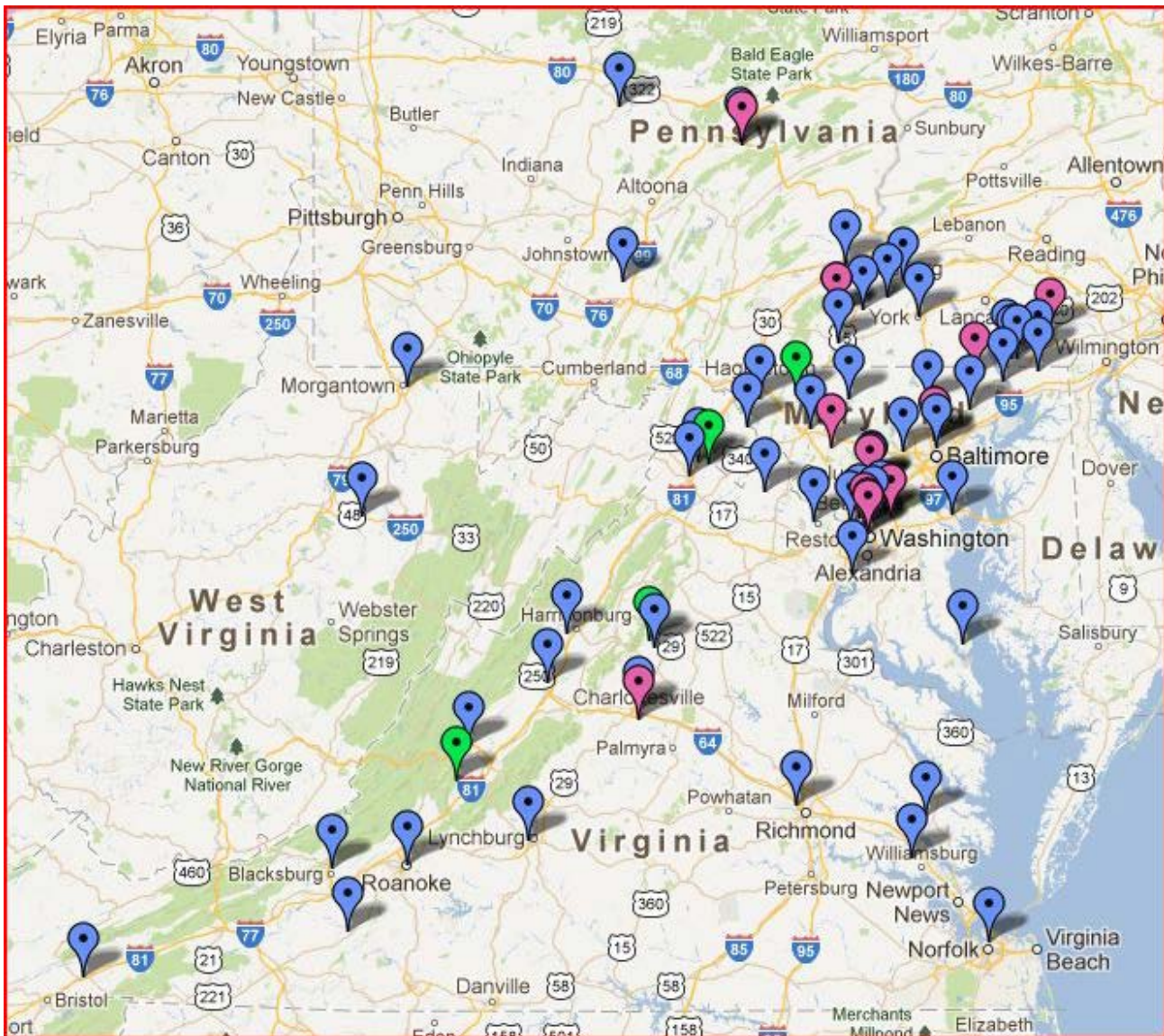
# Baltimore Yearly Meeting

*of the Religious Society of Friends*

## BYM Fact Sheet

Our Yearly Meeting is comprised of Friends in 52 Monthly Meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups. BYM territory encompasses the greater Chesapeake region, with Meetings in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, and West Virginia.

Together we labor with diligence and joy on areas of shared concern, affirming and strengthening our extended faith community and the Quaker presence in the world.



The interactive Google map of BYM meetings is on our website at: [www.bym-rsf.org/who we are/maps.html](http://www.bym-rsf.org/who_we_are/maps.html)

*Friends in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia*  
[www.bym-rsf.org](http://www.bym-rsf.org)

### ***Monthly Meetings within BYM***

Our Yearly Meeting is comprised of 42 full Monthly Meetings, several of which have preparative, indulged, or allowed Meetings under their care. The largest is Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, in Maryland; among the smallest are is Gettysburg. Our newest are Mattaponi Friends Meeting in Virginia and Shepherdstown Monthly Meeting in West Virginia. Our northernmost Meetings are State College and West Branch in Pennsylvania, and our southernmost Meetings include Abingdon, Floyd, and Williamsburg in Virginia.

### ***BYM Committees***

Friends do our work corporately (as a full body), and much of that work is seasoned in committees. Committee service is a great way to go deeper into one's experience of the Quaker way by working closely with others on shared concerns. BYM currently has 28 committees and working groups, each of which holds in trust a part of the work of Friends in our region. Some concern themselves with **spiritual nurture** (e.g. Ministry & Pastoral Care); some address **social issues** (e.g. Peace & Social Concerns); and some are **administrative** in nature (e.g. Stewardship & Finance). Whatever your interest or skill set, there is a place on a BYM committee for you!

### ***BYM Business and Fellowship***

For three centuries, Friends in our region have come together for Annual Session. **BYM Annual Session** is now a week-long gathering. Meeting for Business is held every morning, and in the afternoons Friends may participate in a variety of workshops and organized activities. Annual Session is typically held the first full week of August at Frostburg State University in Maryland. Throughout the rest of the year, the full body is invited to convene at **Interim Meeting**, typically held the third Saturday of March, June, and October. Care is taken to choose locations around the region to ensure that all Friends will have an opportunity to attend a gathering close to home.

### ***BYM Programs***

Baltimore Yearly Meeting seeks to provide spiritual support and nurture for Friends of all ages. Our programs for young people offer opportunities for year-round involvement with a Quaker community of peers: the **BYM Camps** operate in four locations during June, July, and August. During the school year, our **Youth Programs** host weekend conferences for Junior Young Friends (middle schoolers) and Young Friends (high schoolers). Both are opportunities for young people to experience ownership, responsibility, and accountability for the community they build for themselves, following the Quaker way.

We also offer programs for adults. In operation for over 20 years, the **Spiritual Formation** program serves about 40-45 Friends each year. All participants meet at an opening retreat in the fall (September) and a closing retreat the following spring (May). The rest of the year, participants meet in local groups to read, learn, and share. The **Women's Retreat** is a weekend offered each January at a retreat center convenient to the DC/Baltimore metro area. Women from a different Meeting host the event each year. **Special opportunities** for training and mutual learning also occur, such as recent workshops on clerking skills and a session on pastoral care issues.

### ***BYM Publications***

*Faith and Practice*, the book of discipline by which our Meetings operate, is created through the Yearly Meeting. The *Yearbook* is the publication of record for all minutes, financial information, membership statistics, clerks and officers, and committee reports. The *Interchange* newsletter is published three times a year. BYM also offers other publications such as the *History of Baltimore Yearly Meeting* by Bliss Forbush.

### ***BYM Staff and Volunteers***

Much of BYM's operation is handled by Friends called to serve their Yearly Meeting as clerks and committee members. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business is presided over by the BYM Clerk and Clerk of Interim Meeting. Year round, BYM employs seven office staff and two camp caretakers. Core staff are the General Secretary, Camp Program Manager, Camp Property Manager, Youth Programs Manager, Comptroller, Development Director, and Administration Manager. During the camping season, Camp Programs employs an additional 120 paid staff.

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